



# The Beacon

A monthly publication of Lakewood United Church of Christ



**FEBRUARY 2012**

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 2

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"Before spring becomes beautiful, it is plug ugly, nothing but mud and muck. I have walked in the early spring through fields that will suck your boots off, a world so wet and woeful it makes you yearn for the return of ice. But in that muddy mess, the conditions for rebirth are being created." Parker Palmer

Early spring is messy. More and more we are now mopping the kitchen floor as our beloved pug Sofia tracks her little muddy paws across the white tile. It is a nearly an everyday reminder that the icy cold of winter is slowly but surely transforming to the rebirthing of spring. As the snow melts away, what gets revealed is the trash, leaves, sticks, and muck that the snow had so beautifully hidden from sight.

It is not by accident that the season of Lent comes around about the same time as that messy, muddy muck gets uncovered. In the Christian calendar, Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday is the highpoint of joy and celebration. But our ancestors in faith wisely gave us time to prepare for that joyous day by inviting us to spend 6 weeks looking more closely at all that winter has allowed us to forget. The forty days of Lent is a time of introspection and intentionality, a time of looking more closely at all the ways habit, convenience, and distraction have crept into our spiritual lives and turned us away from God. Rather than ignore the truth of our waywardness, we are invited to dive headlong into it; to go walking about in that mud and do some wrestling with God along the way.

Lenten practices traditionally include fasting, prayer, increased attention to reading scripture, and service to others. Each of these practices holds a mirror to our lives and allows us to ask, "Am I yet the person God has created me to be?" Invariably the answer is "no, not yet." Lent provides time to own our mistakes and missteppings, to seek forgiveness, and then discern the ways we can turn ourselves back toward God. As Palmer says, there in mud and muck the conditions for rebirth are created.

We invite you to join us for any or all of our Lenten opportunities this year. Please read this issue of the Beacon to learn more about them.

Blessings on the journey,

Curt

## Moderator's Reflections

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### We Are Family

If ever there were a question about whether or not we are a family, it has been answered. Families discuss what goes well, and what doesn't. And if one member falls short for whatever reason, another member steps up. Several weeks ago, that's exactly the position we were in.

We told you that we had fallen slightly short of our pledged income for 2011. Yes, we had money in other accounts, but fiscal restraint tells us we shouldn't touch it because it will be needed for other uses. So we communicated directly with you, to let you know that some people were unable to fulfill their pledges. We asked you to step up if you possibly could.

That's exactly what you did. While the numbers aren't final at Beacon deadline time, we know that our members took our financial plight to heart. Some of you gave more than you had pledged. Others offered to help make up the difference. Still others just quietly dropped an extra check in the offering plate on Sunday.

All we can say is, "Thank you." Not only are we a family, we're a special family of God. This church, its people, and its mission are truly blessed.

*Tabby Bernardo, Moderator*

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### **Help Wanted—Researching Solar Options for the Church**

The Board of Church Operations has been looking into the possibility of putting solar panels on the church roof. We are still in the initial information gathering stage in the process. Due to the ongoing work of the Board we have found it very challenging to do the necessary research. We are looking for one or two people who have an interest in exploring a solar option to work independently from the Board and to gather the necessary information. If you have interest in pursuing this project, please contact Curt or Kane McNeill for more information.

### **Lenten Book Study: *Christ of the Celts***

This year we'll be reading Philip J. Newell's *Christ of the Celts* as our Lenten Book Study. Using insights from the Celtic Tradition, Newell offers fresh approaches to familiar questions regarding the concept of original sin, the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross, and how the natural world speaks to our spirituality. Newell's writing is approachable and poetic and should provide for interesting and meaningful discussions. We'll meet Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The book is readily available online and through bookstores. If you'd like us to order you a copy, the cost will be approximately \$18.00. Please see Curt if you have questions.

### **Sacred Circle Meet-up**

In case you don't already know, Sacred Circles are small groups of women that meet regularly for sharing, support, and spiritual practices. We'll be gathering at 11:30 on February 19 for a "Sacred Circle Meet-up." This will be an opportunity to reflect, share, and celebrate the connections formed through our Sacred Circles. All women who are currently a part of a Sacred Circle are welcome to come. Also, if you are not yet in a circle, but would like to find out more, you are also welcome to attend. Please let Curt know if you are planning on attending.

## TIDINGS

There is something very special about the bright, young faces that are becoming increasingly familiar on Sunday mornings. Whether we're speaking of toddlers or teenagers, we are seeing more of them and that's a wonderful thing. Kudos to all who are doing so much to build our special programs for the young...those who teach, those who advise, those who provide transportation, those who guide, those who encourage...you are as much a blessing as the children whose lives you touch. Thank you!

**Let's get acquainted...**with an enthusiastic church leader who often has a smile on her face, a welcoming greeting for those around her and a hearty laugh that tells you she's laughing with you, not at you. Since joining LUCC in 1995, she has been busily working on committees and actively participating in the life of the church.

Pat Hayes grew up on 120 acres of farmland in Iowa, which she says is pretty small acreage by modern standards. Her family had a dairy and grew fruits and vegetables, so "We were pretty self-sufficient," says the oldest of eight children. Her father had a fulltime job but worked the land after hours.

In a stroke of irony, Pat says she met her mother-in-law before she met her husband, Les. As a high school student, she worked part-time serving meals at a mental hospital, where Les' mother was the supervising nurse. Eventually, Les began working there part-time and the rest, as they say, is history.

In 1992, the Hayes family moved to Colorado because of Les' job with US West. The church they joined wasn't quite what they were hoping for, so "We drew a map to determine how far we were willing to drive" to another church, Pat says. They were so impressed with LUCC that they quickly joined and haven't looked back. The years since then have been busy ones. Pat first joined Culture and Fellowship, then for several years has chaired

Mission, Outreach and Evangelism. She chaired the Pastoral Search Committee (the LUCC body responsible for "calling" Pastor Curt), and is a charter member of both the bell choir and the prayer group. She is also a member of Sacred Circles, a women's group that got underway at LUCC last spring. Three years ago, she retired as a certified dental assistant and office manager for a dental practice.



Folks who know Pat are familiar with her baking and cooking skills. In fact, some years ago the church held a fund-raiser and Pat's contribution was a different pie every month for a year. Peach, rhubarb, lemon crème and nine other pies, all made with a special crust that is an award-winning family secret, went to the highest bidder. Does the name Annie Nestor ring a bell? Pat's other specialties are cakes and cookies.

The prime beneficiaries of Pat's baking largesse are husband Les, who retired from US West and teaches gun safety classes, son Kevin, who is studying for a degree in computer science, and daughter Amy, an event planner for a catering company. Les is also active in church life, serving on Mission, Outreach and Evangelism and performing in the bell and chancel choirs.

Pat and Les enjoyed a special treat last year, traveling some 4,000 plus miles in their 33-foot motor home, affectionately called the Taj MaHayes. It was their longest trip to date, requiring 44 days of travel on the West Coast.

Besides baking, Pat enjoys gardening, sewing, needlework and walking her two Airedales. Her favorite Biblical scripture is, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

*Tabby Bernardo*

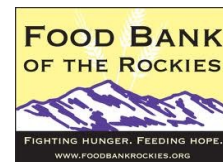
*Photos by Jenny Merriman*

## MISSION

### Opportunities to Serve in our Community for February 2012:

#### **Sorting food at Food Bank of the Rockies on February 9:**

You are invited to participate in a LUCC group work project at the Food Bank of the Rockies on Thursday morning February 9. We plan to have a group of 10 to 15 people work a 9 to 11:30 a.m. shift. The work is in a group/assembly line setting filling boxes with food for the USDA's food program. There will be a variety of positions available from low impact to a more physical activity level. Please see additional information and sign up on the sheet at the Welcome Center. Those who wish to carpool from LUCC will meet at 8:00 a.m. If you have questions, please see Janet Wise.



#### **Preparing and serving a dinner at the Delores Project on February 26:**

LUCC will be preparing and serving a dinner for 65 women at the Delores Project on Sunday, February 26. The Preparation Crew (6 to 8 people) will make chili and cornbread in the LUCC kitchen after Fellowship and the Serving Crew (6 people) will be on site at the Dolores Project during dinner time that night. The mission of The Delores Project is to provide safe, comfortable overnight shelter and services to unaccompanied adult women who are homeless and have limited resources. The model of service is one of hospitality, respect, and regard for the dignity of each guest. Please sign up to prepare or serve the dinner on the sheet at the Welcome Center. For questions please see Pat Hayes.



#### **Thanks from those we have served:**

LUCC has received letters of thanks from the Denver Inner City Parish (for helping a family in need at Christmas) and from the Action Center (for LUCC's ongoing contributions to the Action Center). If you would like to read the complete letters, you may find them on the Mission bulletin board (by the mail room).

#### **South Lakewood Elementary School Volunteers**

As part of LUCC's ongoing relationship with our neighborhood school, South Lakewood Elementary (SLES), Mary Ann Rothenburger and Les Hayes have both been volunteering to assist teachers in the classroom. Mary Ann says of her work in a 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom: "What a joy to see a child's eyes light up when they write a good sentence or figure out a word so that a sentence makes sense. My satisfaction is knowing I am making a difference in a child's learning." Les shares this about his weekly volunteer morning in a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom: "The kids and I have bonded and they feel comfortable coming to me for help, guidance, or maybe to give them an idea to work on. There are no words to convey the joy and satisfaction I am having with this work." Thanks to Mary Ann and Les for the difference they are making at South Lakewood Elementary School.

#### **Mitten Tree**

Thanks to all members of the congregation who donated mittens, scarves, and hats for our "Mitten Tree". These items were blessed during worship on January 15 before being donated to the Action Center. Many hands and heads will stay warm this winter because of your caring for adults and children in our community. The 70 pairs of mittens, 20 hats, and 14 scarves will brighten the lives of all who receive them.



## Christian Education

### 1. **Building Blocks of Faith (BBF) – Children’s Sunday School**

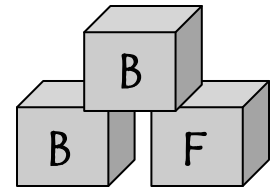
#### **BBF Student February 2012 Curriculum:**

Teaching Series –The Marys – Jesus’ Mom , Jesus’ Disciple and Jesus’ Servant

- ♦ February 5-Mary the Chosen
- ♦ February 12-Mary – Jesus’ Mom
- ♦ February 19-Mary Magdalene – Jesus’ Friend/ Disciple
- ♦ February 26-Martha and Mary – Serving and Loving Jesus

#### **February 2012 BBF Teachers Needed!**

Teaching Needs for February 2012- Theme - The Marys



Lambs 4 yrs-2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	Feb. 5, 2012	Feb. 12, 2012	Feb.19, 2012	Feb. 26, 2012
Teacher 1		Nancy J.	Mary Ann R.	
Teacher 2		Sue J.		

Doves 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grade	Feb. 5, 2012	Feb. 12, 2012	Feb.19, 2012	Feb. 26, 2012
Teacher 1	Susan Rudy		Susan R.	
Teacher 2				

**Please Contact Jen if you are able to help.**

#### **Teacher Appreciation**

A special thank you to our wonderful January Teaching Staff: The CE Board: Priscilla Ingebrigtsen, Paul Michalec, Nancy Krebs, Lisa Lloyd

### 2. **Youth – YAC and Confirmation**

#### **YAC (Youth at Church) Schedule for February 2012**

February 5      YAC – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
 February 12     YAC – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
 February 19     YAC – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
 February 26     NO YAC

#### **Confirmation Schedule for February 2012**

February 5      11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
 February 12     No Confirmation  
 February 19     No Confirmation  
 February 26     6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### 3. **Adult Education**

#### **Lenten Book Study: Christ of the Celts**

Tuesdays during Lent from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. (See Information on page 2.)





### Lakewood United Church of Christ

Thank you to everyone for your contributions and for the extra amounts given for 2011 to help us meet our financial goals. Heartfelt thanks should be given to Brian Weishaar (Finance Manager) and LaNelle Haxton (Auditor) for all their hard work!

The Board of Church Operations truly appreciates the generous congregation who gives both financially and of their time to our church.

### Miner's Alley Theater

Boni McIntyre, former LUCC Choir Director, is performing in the show **Master Class**, February 24 through April 1 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights) at the Miner's Alley Theater in Golden. The show is based on Master Classes given at the Julliard School of Music by Maria Callas. As Sharon Graham, one of Maria's students, Boni will be performing the entrance aria for Lady Macbeth from Verdi's **Macbeth**. To quote Boni, "Even if you know nothing about opera, this evening will be a fabulous introduction, love or hate her (Maria Callas), to one of the most polarizing figures in opera of all time". More show and ticket information is available at <http://www.minersalley.com/BoxOffice.shtml>. It is recommended tickets be purchased early.

### SNACKS FOR SOUTH LAKEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Next time you're at Costco, or your neighborhood grocery store, consider picking up an extra bag of snacks for the kids at South Lakewood Elementary! Most families pack daily snacks, but there are those that are frequently unable to do so and we're helping out by making some available for teachers to use at their discretion. The best snacks are nut free, healthy options like raisins/craisins, goldfish crackers, pretzels, etc. Our whole community thanks you for your help!



### LA FORET



La Foret Summer Camps are open for registration! See the Welcome Center for a brochure with more information about a variety of camping opportunities at La Foret this summer. Please speak with Danielle Johns Preston about other opportunities to visit and get involved with La Foret Conference and Retreat Center (High School and Middle School retreats and music festivals coming this spring). It's a UCC Rocky Mountain Conference resource open to us all. Come check it out!



### New Year! New Fellowship!

The New Improved Fellowship hour will be coming your direction! As most of you know, we are moving toward a more "green" fellowship hour with the purchase of reusable cups and plates. Additionally, the committee has been discussing the desire to make Fellowship more user friendly for those wishing to host the hour. Simplicity is the aim so that all members that would like to host a Sunday are able to participate. Therefore, please note that we will be encouraging a simpler spread as most of us need to cut back on what we eat anyway! Please also note, that starting this month we will be asking Fellowship participants to put their chairs away, only if they are able, to make clean up easier for all.

Also, labels have been printed and will be posted on the refrigerator and on the cabinets. If you bring food in, will you label the date and who the food is intended for so the right group eats/drinks the supplies? Also, by putting a date on the food, then we will know how much more time we can utilize the items before it is time to throw them out.

## Fat Tuesday

### Feb. 21



Please join us for our "Fat Tuesday" Pancake Potluck Supper on **Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m.** Who doesn't like breakfast for dinner? "Fat Tuesday" (called, "Mardi Gras" in French) is always on the Tuesday before Lent begins. Traditionally, families would try to use up their extra cooking fat before Lent began, and thus, Fat Tuesday was born. Please join us for this fun, family-friendly, all church event. We will have a night of wild fun before we have to get serious again! Please sign up so we can get a good estimate of how much food to prepare, what items you will bring so that we will know what supplies we will still need to purchase. We will need help setting up and a few pancake flippers too.



### Valentine's Day Fellowship

To honor all those we love and just because we love sweets, the Fellowship Committee will be hosting the Fellowship hour on **Sunday, February 12.** If you would like to share a special valentine treat, please bring it on that morning.



All are welcome to join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, **February 22 at 7:00 p.m.** Let's begin this Lenten Season together in harmony.

# SERVICES

Please join us at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays for Worship.

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

LUCC office hours are 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday. Feel free to contact the office manager if you will need assistance outside of regular office hours.

## From Our Shepherds

**Please keep the following people in your prayers:**

- Joan Howard
- Brenda Zserdin
- Priscilla Ingebrigtsen
- Connie Jaeger
- Carmen Jaeger
- Henry Wiese
- Sheila Wiese
- Marti Stahmer

### Sunday Schedule


**9:30 a.m.** Nursery Care Available  
**10:15 a.m.** Worship Service  
 (Children begin in worship and transition to Sunday school)  
**11:15 a.m.** Fellowship hour

Large print bulletins and hearing assists are available at each worship service. If you need one, ask the greeter for one as you enter the Sanctuary.

### Child Care Available


Child care is available in the nursery from 9:30 a.m. until the end of the service. Sara Ulricksen and Marissa Maestas are our childcare providers. We also have youth assistants in the nursery.

Childcare is available for children age 3 and younger. Visiting children are welcome. The nursery is located at the far north end of the upper level.



### OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Good Grief "Out to Lunch Bunch" will meet at Jus Cookin's Restaurant on February 12 at 12:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of sharing a meal and connecting with friends.




## ATTENDANCE

Date	Attendance	To Date	This Was...
January 1	58	11472	First Sunday After Christmas
January 8	117	11589	First Sunday After Epiphany
January 15	105	11694	Second Sunday After Epiphany
January 22	132	11826	Third Sunday After Epiphany

## OUR APPRECIATION FOR THOSE THAT HAVE SERVED US

### Greeters for January

1/1 Janet Hehr and Linda Royval  
 1/8 Don Collins and Val Zinke  
 1/15 Karen Coiner and Family  
 1/22 Marylin Floreth and Monna Krebs  
 1/29 Denise Buckheister and Dianne McNeill

### January Fellowship Hosts

1/1 Fellowship Committee  
 1/8 Rob and Tiffany Beastrom  
 1/15 Bob and Diane Rhodes  
 1/22 Deb Dunn and Marilyn Blomberg  
 1/29 Judi Baxter and Sheldan Picard



*Thank you to all church members who helped in any way during our recent losses. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Each contribution is a reflection of the love shared by our church family.*

### Welcomers for January

1/1 Carolyn Eslinger  
 1/8 Janet Hehr  
 1/15 MaryAnn Rothenburger  
 1/22 Susan Rumley  
 1/29 Linda Royval



### Substitute Office Manager Position

Our fabulous office manager, Jean Chavez, has informed us that there may be a need in the near future for her to take a leave of absence to attend to some family responsibilities. We are hoping to identify and train a person to fill in for Jean should she need to be gone for a few weeks. If you know someone who has office and computer skills and would consider the position, please contact Curt or our Chair of Personnel, Molly Hughes, to find out more details. Due to the nature of the position, we are not looking to hire a member of the congregation, but would welcome suggestions of people you know.

### ADDRESS CHANGES

If you haven't already heard the news, we wanted you to know **Harriett Wilkinson** has moved in with her daughter in Kenosha WI. At this point, it hasn't been determined if this is a permanent or temporary move, but our blessings and prayers go with Harriett during this time of transition. Cards and letters are welcome. If you'd like to contact Harriett, she can be reached at:

6520 54th Ave  
 Kenosha, WI 53142 (Phone 262-652-7124)

**Ruth Blosser** has moved to Villa Manor  
 7950 W. Mississippi Ave.  
 Lakewood, CO 80226 (No phone number yet)

**Madge Dunn** has moved to  
 Allison Care Center  
 1660 Allison, Rm 227  
 Lakewood, CO 80214  
 (303-887-2329)



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### **BEACON:**

#### **How do I submit articles?**

Submit an article for use in the *Beacon* via email to the following address:  
**[lakewoodbeacon@qwestoffice.net](mailto:lakewoodbeacon@qwestoffice.net)**  
 You may also place your articles in the *Beacon* folder in the church office.  
 Email submissions are accepted either in the body of the email or  
 as an attached Word document.

**The monthly deadline is the third FRIDAY of the previous month!**  
**Feature articles are limited to 500 words.**

The mission of the Lakewood United Church of Christ is to develop our faith in God, enabling us to know the abundant life Christ promised by nourishing our spiritual journey, fostering community, inviting others to join on the journey, and going forth into the world through service to do justice, love others, and promote peace. We are an Open and Affirming church, respecting all God's children regardless of race, color, ethnicity, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

**LUCC STAFF**

Curt Preston, Minister  
Tabby Bernardo, Moderator  
Jen Keyes, CE Director  
Joan Wagner, Director of Music Ministries  
Beth DeBoer, Choir Accompanist  
Brian Weishaar, Finance Manager  
Jean Chavez, Office Manager

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**Lakewood United Church of Christ**

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